The MSRA's Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program

2007 Fishery Management Council Training

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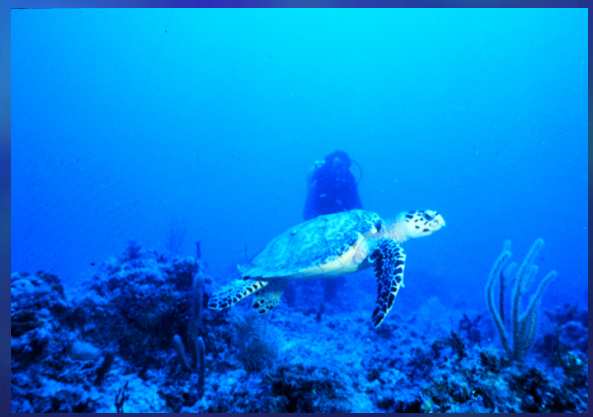

How NOAA Has Done Bycatch Reduction Engineering

- Reducing Bycatch budget line from NOAA budget, which has funded National Seabird Program, technology transfer to reduce turtle takes in pelagic fisheries, and halibut and salmon excluder devices
- Cooperative research programs
- Research set-aside program
- Other budget lines (turtles in Hawaii, Atlantic sea turtle strategy)

2006 MSRA Section 316

- Section entitled Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program, consists of four components:
  - Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program (mandatory)
  - Incentives (authorization language)
  - Coordination with Seabird Interactions (authorization language)
  - Report to Congress (mandatory)

Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program

- Must be established by mid-January 2008
- In cooperation with Councils and other affected interests
- Grants component—coordination with cooperative research program
- Focused on Federally managed fisheries
- Regionally based
- Must provide information and outreach
- Must provide for routine consultation with Councils

Incentives

- Any FMP may establish system of incentives to reduce total bycatch and seabird interactions, post-release mortality
- Could include measures:
  - To incorporate bycatch into quotas,
  - To promote gear with verifiable and monitored low bycatch rates, and
  - That, based on best scientific information available, reduce bycatch and seabird interactions, mortality, or regulatory discards.

Coordination on Seabird Interactions

- Authorizes Secretary of Commerce to undertake:
  - Outreach to industry on new technologies and methods,
  - Projects to mitigate seabird mortality, and
  - Actions at appropriate international fishery organizations to reduce seabird interactions in fisheries.

Report to Congress

- First report due around January 2009, must describe:
  - Funding provided to implement S 316,
  - Developments in gear technology achieved under S 316, and
  - Improvements and reduction in bycatch and seabird interactions as well as proposals to address remaining bycatch or seabird problems.

BREP Mission

The mission of the Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program is to develop technological solutions and investigate changes in fishing practices designed to minimize bycatch, seabird interactions, bycatch mortality, and post-release mortality of fish and protected species (including seabirds, marine mammals, and sea turtles).

Terms of Reference

- **Provide national coordination**
  - Including guidance to ensure that the results of bycatch reduction engineering and post-release injury and mortality projects supported by NOAA are responsive to management needs
- **Allocate funding**
- **Coordinate planning and policy development**
- **Enhance communication**
- **Conduct outreach activities**
  - Including developing and enhancing collaborative partnerships with National Cooperative Research Program

Long-Term Implementation

- Developing performance measures
- Identifying budget requirements and making a strong case for increased funding
- Obtaining feedback
- Establishing national priorities/strategic plan for bycatch reduction with Councils and other affected interests

Training Exercise

1. What gear is unique to your region?
2. What is the most unusual management measure in use in your region?
3. What is the most challenging bycatch issue for your region?
4. What gear modification or management technique is new or currently under consideration in your region?